

*Loamy Bottomland*

~~WET~~  
DESERT SHRUB  
RANGE SITE DESCRIPTION

Land Resource Area Trans-Pecos

Location \_\_\_\_\_

Date January 1, 1972

1. TOPOGRAPHY AND ELEVATION: This site occurs on nearly level to gently sloping flood plains of rivers and live streams. Slopes are from 0 to 3 percent. Elevations range from 2500 to 3500 feet.

2. SOILS:

- a. Soils of this site are alluvial, consisting of deep loams and clay loams 18 to 36 inches thick over a sandy layer. The loam or clay loam layer is moderately alkaline and calcareous, and the sandy layer is moderately alkaline, calcareous or noncalcareous. These soils are well drained, runoff is slow to moderately slow, depending on the plant cover. The soil has a good plant-soil-air-moisture relationship. If unprotected by plant cover, the soil crusts badly, inhibiting infiltration, contributing to high runoff, thus resulting in water erosion. The site is occasionally overflowed by the Rio Grande.

- b. Some soil taxonomic units which characterize this site are:

Gila fine sandy loam  
Harkey silty clay loam  
Saneli clay loam  
Glendale loam  
Tigua clay  
Vinton fine sandy loam  
Anapra silty clay loam

- c. Specific site location:

3. CLIMAX VEGETATION:

- a. This is a post-climax site. Species composition varies greatly in relation to degree and frequency of overflow. A wide variety of woody shrubs and trees are common components of the climax plant community.

RELATIVE PERCENTAGE

<u>Grasses</u>	70%	<u>Woody</u>	20%	<u>Forbs</u>	10%
Giant sacaton	30	Tarbrush	5	Spiny aster	
Alkali sacaton	12			Croton	
		Baccharis		Yellow	
Cane bluestem		Apacheplume	5	trumpetflower	5
Silver bluestem	15	Whitebrush		Other perennial	
Twoflower trichloris		Guayacan		forbs	
Sideoats grama					
Switchgrass		Catclaw		Annual forbs	5
White tridens		Whitethorn acacia	3		
		Blackbrush acacia			
Arizona cottontop					
Plains		Mesquite	5		
bristlegrass		Tornillo			
Perennial threeawn	3				
Pink pappusgrass		Yucca			
Whiplash pappusgrass		Tasajillo	2		
		Cholla			
Chino grama		Prickly pear			
Blue grama	10				
Bush muhly		Cottonwood	T		
		Willow			
Annual grasses	T				

- b. As retrogression occurs, annual grasses and forbs and burrograss greatly increase. The site becomes brushy with creosotebush, tarbrush, mesquite, acacia and cacti.
- c. Approximate total annual yield of this site in excellent condition ranges from 1000 pounds per acre in poor years to 2000 pounds per acre of air-dry vegetation in good years.
4. WILDLIFE NATIVE TO THE SITE: Dove and quail are the principal wildlife species of this site. The abundance of forbs and brush cover make this site desirable for these species. The limiting factor for deer is the lack of adequate food.
5. GUIDE TO INITIAL STOCKING RATE:

<u>Condition Class</u>	<u>Climax Vegetation</u>	<u>Ac/AU/Yr.L.</u>	<u>AU/Sec/Yr.L.</u>
Excellent	76-100	32-53	12-20
Good	51-75	40-80	8-16
Fair	26-50	58-107	6-11
Poor	0-25	80-213	3-8
b. Introduced species		<u>Percent Ground Cover</u>	
		<u>100-76</u>	<u>75-51</u> <u>50-26</u> <u>25-0</u>
Johnsongrass (Ac/AU)		25-45	35-75 52-105 70-210
c. Seeded areas		<u>100-76</u>	<u>75-51</u> <u>50-26</u> <u>25-0</u>
Midgrasses		25-40	30-70 45-100 70-200

RELATIVE FORAGE QUALITY OF SPECIES 1/

## a. Cattle

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Bush muhly	Burrograss	Creosotebush
Sand dropseed	Sixweeks grama	Tarbush
Chino grama	Silver bluestem	Guayacan
Alkali sacaton	Yucca	Mesquite
Giant dropseed		Blackbrush acacia
Tobosa		Most annual forbs
Perennial threeawn		Whitethorn acacia
Sideoats grama		Croton
Plains bristlegrass		
Blue grama		
Whiplash pappusgrass		
Pink pappusgrass		

## b. Goats

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Whitethorn acacia	Mesquite	Creosotebush
Guayacan	Tobosa	Croton
Blackbrush acacia	Sand dropseed	Mesquite
Apacheplume	Alkali sacaton	
Some annual and perennial forbs	Chino grama	
Sideoats grama	Whitebrush	
Blue grama	Tarbush	
Plains bristlegrass	Yucca	

## c. Deer

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Guayacan	Whitebrush	Mesquite
Apacheplume	Whitethorn acacia	Cacti
Spiny aster	Blackbrush acacia	
Other perennial forbs	Some annual forbs	

## d. Dove and Quail

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Seed of:	Seed of:	Seed of:
Croton	Yucca	Other grasses
Annual forbs	Guayacan (mast)	Mesquite
Perennial forbs	Acacia (mast)	Creosotebush
Sideoats grama		Tarbush
Plains bristlegrass		
Alkali sacaton		
Sand dropseed		

1/ Definitions of terms and an explanation of interpretation is given on a separate page which is attached or submitted with each group of range site descriptions.